

REMARKS

Claims 1, 46-54, 56-68 and 70-73 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 56 is amended and claims 72 and 73 are added.

Claims 56-59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Takagi, U. S. Patent No. 5,877,794. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the September 8, 2003 personal interview, Applicant has amended claim 56 to clarify that substantially only air is communicated between the atmospheric connection path and the first chamber. As such, Takagi fails to disclose the features of Applicant's claim 56. In addition, claims 57-59 recite additional features of the invention and are also believed to be allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 56 and for the additional features recited therein. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

As discussed during the personal interview, Applicant adds claims 72 and 73 as method claims that correspond to Applicant's apparatus claim 51 and 53.

In view of the foregoing in this Amendment and the September 8, 2003 filed Amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 46-54, 56-68 and 70-73 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: September 17, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

**DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION**

Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461